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1792.C.28  
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ACCOUNT  
OF SOME OF THE MOST  
ROMANTIC PARTS  
OF  
NORTH WALES.

*Gratwick (C.)*

— Of Antres vast, and Desarts idle,  
ough Quarries, Rocks, and Hills, whose Heads touch  
Heav'n,  
t was my Hint to speak.

SHAKESPEARE.

L O N D O N,

for T. DAVIES, Russel-Street Covent-Garden;  
and T. CADELL, in the Strand.

MDCCLXXVII.

26.24

B. U. O. S.

W. Musgrave.

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Sir WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNNE,

Bart.

SIR,

EVERY one will see the propriety of dedicating an Account of North Wales to You, who possess so considerable a part of that Country, and yet, Sir, this is not the motive of my Address;—it is from a high

high regard to that public and private Character which has hitherto been an ornament to Society, and which I trust will continue to adorn the Age with those Virtues, of which your Ancestors were such eminent Examples.

I have the Honour to be,

with great respect,

Sir, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH CRADOCK.

A R M S  
O F T H E  
PRINCIPALITY.

BRUTE gaue to CAMBER his Third  
Sonne, CAMBRIA with theise Armes,  
Tres Leones Gradientes facies suas  
ad terga uertentes in Campo Argenteo.  
In Frenche, Il portoit d'Argent  
trois Lyons passants regardantes  
de Gueules, The which Armes the  
Kinges and Prynces of Wales and  
theire sprynge, used for a Songe  
tyme after, untill the Country  
was deuided into three distant  
Pryncipalityes viz: North Wales  
South Wales and Powes Lande, And  
then they tooke severall Armes.

Nor





North Wales.



South Wales.



Powes Land.



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AN  
A C C O U N T  
OF SOME OF THE MOST  
ROMANTIC PARTS  
OF  
NORTH WALES.

AS every one now who has either traversed a steep mountain, or crossed a small channel, must write his Tour, it would be almost unpardonable Me to be totally silent, who

B have

( 2 )

have visited the most uninhabited regions of North Wales—who have seen lakes, rivers, sea rocks, and precipices, at unmeasurable distances, and who from observation and experience can inform the world, that high hills are very difficult of access, and the tops of them generally very cold.

But ancient Britain has a kind of hereditary claim upon me, as I have the honour to boast of my origin from thence; and as the

name

name and exploits of my ancestors continually occur through the wild heroic pages of Welshable or history.

This journey was undertaken rather late in the autumn 1776 ; the season proved remarkably favourable, neither rains nor winds impeded my progress—

The air on the mountains was clarified by the summer's heat, the sun shone out all the day Cader, and Snowdon had not

begun to fortify himself against  
this almost winter approach.

I set out from Shrewsbury for  
Welsh Poole, — the last eight  
miles afforded a most beautiful  
prospect of a rich vale in Mon-  
gomeryshire. The Vales through-  
out this county are remarkably  
pleasant ; but they have been  
so frequently described, that  
it is almost superfluous to observe  
that they abound with corn, and  
are luxuriant in pasturage.

Welsh Poole is a place of some note—it is one of the five Boroughs in Montgomeryshire, which jointly send a member to Parliament. It has a good market, but though the Severn is navigable within two miles of it, there is scarce ever any fish—even salmon is never under twelve pence a pound. It takes its name from a contemptible black pool, which is said to be unfathomable, and of which there is a prophecy, that it shall

some time or other overflow and deluge the town. This prophecy is still believed in Wales.

About a mile from hence stands Powis castle, or Red castle, from the colour of the stones of which it is built. The situation of it is certainly very noble, but I cannot agree with Lord Lyttelton, that three thousand pounds would make it the most august place in the kingdom; there is much to be done in the mere approach, and, at present,

and sent you are obliged to ask  
 where the Severn runs. The  
 ground is laid out in that  
 formal style of gardening, that  
 was brought in at the Revolu-  
 tion, and there will be much  
 difficulty in altering it with  
 propriety. A common Under-  
 keeper in Taste, would imme-  
 diately convert the clipt hedges  
 true-love-knots, into a gau-  
 my and unmeaning shrubbery,  
 in order to decorate this place to  
 vantage, the Genius of this

place only must be consulted, "that all  
 \* parts should every where be  
 connected with each other, and  
 must likewise bear a reference  
 to the whole." On my return  
 to Poole, I ordered a carriage  
 to convey me to Llanvair—this was  
 to be my last stage on known  
 ground,—the road was perfectly  
 good, the people in general spoke  
 English, and their civility was  
 remarkable, that the very turn  
 pike man was grateful for the  
 office.

I was here most strongly recommended to a good house, about twelve miles distant, but found it only a miserable hut; I therefore pressed onwards as fast as possible, and after some difficulties arrived at Dynys-Mouthy.

This City (for Dynys is Welsh for City) is possessed of many great advantages; there is no body-corporate to divide it into faction, there is not a single office that can possibly be contended

tended for all the rent of houses  
 will be the same at all seasons  
 and even in August you are al-  
 ways incommoded by the sun  
 The river is not large, but it will  
 never be encroached upon by the  
 inhabitants; but their walks will  
 never be injured by any  
 fresh dealers in taste; — indeed as  
 they have only one street now  
 cut down an oak planted in the  
 reign of Charles the second; and  
 I believe they have never heard  
 of any King since.

As to Fashions, they are similar to those in Town—the head-  
ness of the Females is very high,  
and in a morning they generally  
will wear the Half-Poloneſe et  
The Inns too, like the London  
are dark and dirty; but  
there is very little noise in them;  
and as to Provisions, the people  
attempt to make what na-  
tural things they have upon them,  
and they gave me whatever they  
had, ~~they have never seen~~  
Jackets and petticoats.

— said King George  
had,

had; Bread, uncontaminated with  
spurious mixtures, and Milk, that  
was absolutely from the cow.

I did not see a Cathedral, nor  
heard of either bishop or palace;  
probably he might reside at  
great distance, and have consigned  
his flock over to a chapel of ease.

There is no court of judica-  
ture open here. This city is as  
free from attorneyes as ancient  
Thebes ; indeed the two never  
failing fources of litigation, the  
Poor laws and the Game law.

are entirely unknown. There is not even a Quack ; so that those whom liquor spares, generally die at a very advanced age.

The Theatre is held in great repute. I had the pleasure to be present at one play, which is here called an *Anterlute*, probably a corruption from our term Interlude. The piece was said to have been written by a celebrated Mr. Evan something, who lived at Bala ; but, from the actions, gestures, and emblems, I conceived it

to

to have been modelled from before Shakespeare's time. The plot was in part similar to a burletta, which has frequently been exhibited in London, called *La Serva Padrona*, but the music was certainly *not* Pergolese's. The orchestra, to be sure, was exceedingly contracted; but we must reflect, that some of our best, as well as earliest Dramas, were only accompanied by a Harp. The price of admittance to this elegant entertainment, would have been

been termed by the Romans, De-

narius. The name is spelt differently by

The road from Dynevor Mouth

afforded but little amusement,

and the first cast of Cader Idris

greatly disappointed me; but I

soon recollect ed that as I was

then on very high ground, it

must have been from some other

point of view that this mountain

had rendered itself so remark-

able. In the course of this re-

lection, I was on a sudden de-

lighted with the country round

Dol-

Dolgelly,—woods, rocks, a rich  
vale, a fine river, and, at that dis-  
tance, the appearance of rather  
a decent town, surrounded with  
many gentlemen's seats,—these  
contrasted with the barrenness  
had just travelled through, al-  
joined to render the prospec-  
truly delicious. But how was I  
disgusted on my arrival at the in-  
terior parts of this miserable place,  
there is no street in it; you pass  
from dungeon to dungeon;  
through a multiplicity of hog-

richards ;—before I reached the inn  
I heard a cracked trumpet sound-  
theing every where about, and im-  
mediately concluded that I might  
hesitate, in the evening, another farce  
ness *anterlute* ; but was informed it  
, also, was only intended to call the  
spectacles to the quarter-sessions.  
was at the inn there was nothing to  
he in obtained ; so that as soon as  
place I sent out for a Guide,  
u pa at I might retire to the moun-  
ngeon ns ;—whilst I was in waiting,  
f hog enquired about the only toler-  
yards

able building I then saw, and  
was told it was for cock-match  
such as we had in England;—  
that they were just over, but that  
I might go immediately and see  
a famous man from London shewing  
*tricks of slight of hand.* I chie  
wished for some refreshment  
having greatly suffered from ex  
tigue and illness the precedi  
day; but as I was a stranger,  
people shewed me little or no  
vility, and on my enquiring  
horses, took every advantag

and my distress. I was now almost  
inclined to have bestowed upon  
them some rather ungracious epi-  
tets; but I considered, that as we  
seemed to be teaching them no-  
thing from England but *cruelty*  
and *fraud*, I ought rather to la-  
ment the cause than insult the  
effect of their brutality.

On the arrival of the Guide, I  
set out immediately for Cader  
Brenig, and found the tract ex-  
ceedingly good, till I came to a  
prominent part of the mountain,

and here, I must acknowledge, my head was too giddy sufficiently to admire the amazing scene that was opening to me in view. At length, having gained the summit, (the whole ascent being near three miles,) on a fine piece of level ground, I could with comfort survey the sea, the Carnarvonshire shore, Snowdon without a cloud upon his top, lakes, rivers, rocks, and precipices which were every way spread before me;—at the bottom

edge of the hill, on the opposite side, was  
suffice small Village, to which several  
azin were returning heavy loaden  
o m from Dolgelly market ; this Vil-  
aine age is remarkable for nothing  
asce but the remains of a small  
on castle, whose miserable situation  
cou could not secure it from the de-  
ea, th orinations of Cromwell's army.  
owde In the course of my survey of  
s to the Mountain, it seemed to take  
ecipio thousand capricious forms, but  
spre the most wonderful part of it is  
om the tremendous peak, which over-

hangs the Lake of the \* Three Grains,—but here I shall forbear description, as a fine representation of it, has been lately executed, by the ingenious and accurate pencil of Mr. Wilson.—

On my return I discovered, far out of any tract, on the steepest part of the hill, a man gathering rock-moss to dye baizes red,—“dreadful trade!” one could

\* The common people believe these three large craggs to have been cast out of the shoes of the giant Idris.

only exclaim ;—this excrescence  
is chiefly sold to Dublin—it af-  
fords a most beautiful colour at  
first, and if mixed with proper  
ingredients and distilled, will, it  
is said, become permanent. Be-  
ing very thirsty from heat and  
fatigue, I enquired for some  
goat's milk, but to no purpose;  
the Guide, however, informed  
me, that he could procure me,  
from a neighbouring cottage, a  
liquor, peculiar to that part of  
North Wales, which infinitely

exceeded Stirom cyder—I tasted it, and found it was made of mountain-ash berries and crabs or floes\*,—it should remain at least half a year in the vessel before it is bottled off, and if it were then kept to a proper age, it would not be altogether con-

\* The following lines have since occurred to me :

“ Then she describes  
The Scythian winter, nor disdains to sing  
How under ground the rude Riphæan race  
Mimic brisk cyder with the brake’s product wild ;

Sloes pounded, hips, and servis’ harshest juice.”

PHILIPS.

temptible.

ed temptible. The tediousness of  
of my return to Dolgelly, was  
abs somewhat beguiled by the con-  
sequential information of the  
Guide, and I must own he great-  
ly entertained, and at the same  
time shocked me with the respect  
he paid me as an English gen-  
tleman,—whenever he replied to  
me, he thought it necessary to  
interlard his answer with fre-  
quent oaths, whereas I found  
when he spoke to my servant  
only, it was entirely in an un-  
adorned

adorned style, without the least display of these sensible embellishments.

The next morning being Sunday, I went to eight o'clock prayers here—the area of the church is spacious, and the pews neat—there is a coving roof of wood which is necessary to aid the voice, as the floor is only clay covered deep with rushes; the congregation was large, and the service was read with devotion and tolerable propriety.

My stay was prolonged at Dolgelly, that the master of the inn, who was absent on my first arrival, and who was justly recommended to me as an intelligent Person, might attend me to see the three wonderful waterfalls in this neighbourhood—one of them is in so obscure a place, that the minister of an adjoining Parish, whom I afterwards met with, had never till that time even heard of it:—about five miles on the road towards

Tan

Tan y Bwlch, we turned on the left hand to see the first, which I take to be a part of the river Dery—this is not more than fifty feet in height, but you may afterwards trace it, for near a mile, through crags and trees before it reaches its rocky bed at the bottom ; the others, are falls of whole rivers, the Moth-waye and the Cayne, over the tops of two rocky mountains ;—the former perhaps may not be above one hundred feet

in height, but the latter is certainly at least an hundred yards — both of them are shaded with beautiful woods on the sides of hills, whose summits are in the clouds, and whose feet are whitened by the foam of these tremendous cataracts.

Before we reached Tan y Bwlch, we stopped to look into a small church; where some cleanly villagers were assembled at evening prayers,— the women were by far the handsomest of any

any I saw in this country ; the clergyman was reading the lesson concerning David and his Concubines, and I could not help reflecting, that if these ignorant people should any way confound the Old with the New Law, they might here find some excuse for that Gallantry, which sacrifices the virtue of so many females in this neighbourhood : to prevent such a mistake, would it not be proper to have an exposition made of this chapter, and trans-

lated

lated into Welsh,—I mean only, provided the learned labour could be confined within the narrow limits of five volumes in folio.

I was much struck with the situation of Mrs. Griffith's house at Tan y Bwlch,—at first sight it somewhat resembled Matlock Bath, but the hills in front are thrown to a fine distance, and behind the house they are covered with wood;—through a very spacious valley the river Dwyryd runs, and from the tops of

of the mountains are frequent, and not incon siderable cataracts.—indeed most of the romantic prospects of North Wales, taken separately, are infinitely superior to those of Derbyshire; but where shall we find within the same distance, such amazing contrast as the high polish of Kedleston opposed to the bleak horrors of the Peak.

Mrs. Griffith is possessed of a considerable fortune,—she has an only daughter, to whom a

en sensible clergyman, who resides  
cts in the house, is tutor, and who,  
nti though a chaplain, is treated as  
ke independent. A lady, it is true,  
riod such a country cannot be eve-  
here day interrupted with visitants,  
ame but Mrs. Griffith has generally a  
traflect party of friends, — these  
ston form a rational society, whereas  
rs of many places, a good neigh-  
ourhood means little more than  
of a keeping an inn at your own ex-  
has ence.

D

At

At the distance of about three miles (the road most beautifully diversified) the scene changes on a sudden to some dark and naked precipices ; at the bottom is a large rocky basin, which receives the Rhaidr-du, or Black Cataract, as it is called,—this, I am confident, is exactly similar to the spot where Hecate appointed her sister-witches to assemble, and offer their choicest incantations to complete the ruin of Macbeth.

And at the pit of Acheron  
 Meet me i'th' morning; thither He  
 Shall come, to know his destiny.

The mistress of the little inn  
 Tan y Bwlch, has lived many  
 years fervant in considerable fa-  
 milies, and from her attentive  
 civility, has received great com-  
 mendations from the few Eng-  
 lishmen that have hitherto visit-  
 ed this country.—Her house is  
 this year much improved;—Lord  
 Radnor, having staid a day or  
 two there, has made her a pre-

sent of the fitting up of her parlour: two sash-windows add great clearfulness to the room, and each grateful passenger readily joins with the landlady in celebrating the kindness of the public-spirited young nobleman.

The road to Harlech affords great variety; there could scarcely be more within the compass of ten miles. For the first three we surveyed "the Happy Valley \*," we then passed

\* Vide Johnson's Rasselas.

here a beautiful lake, and having  
also gained the next mountain saw  
the Castle, situated on a high  
red rock, which projects into the  
Irish sea. It must be confessed,  
however, that the last two miles  
were rather "a stair-case path;"  
but I have frequently travelled  
for twenty miles together in the  
midland counties of England  
with more danger and difficulty.  
In Wales one has the pleasure of  
seeing that they are making daily  
improvements in roads; but in

England the farmers are so rich that, by the aid of some petty attorney in the neighbourhood they can generally protect perfidiousness by knavery.

Harlech stands on the north-west side of the county of Merioneth; its houses are mean, and its inhabitants uncivilized. There is a good harbour for ships, but no ships for the harbour. It is remarkable only for its old decayed castle, which was defended by a British nobleman against

Edward

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Edward the fourth, till an earl of Pembroke, after almost incredible difficulties, compelled it to surrender. It has been confidently asserted that this castle was built before Edward the first's time, and that all he did was the making some additions, especially to the fortifications ; but I should be rather inclined to think that it was planned at least by Edward. A tradition goes, that the workmen, after they had got to a considerable height, were

all taken off to build the castles  
of Aberystwith and Carnarvon;  
and indeed there are evident  
marks of a Separation,

An unpolished people, it is  
observed, have little or no curio-  
sity,—I had seated myself by the  
fire-side in one of the houses at  
Harlech without the inhabitants  
expressing the least surprize at it;  
the Guide and attendants began  
to be rather clamorous for some  
refreshment, and the people at  
length brought them some oat-  
meal

bles meal bread, four porter, and  
on drinking cheese. On my leaving  
the house, I believe I gave the  
mistress of it more than she ex-  
pected, for she immediately re-  
quested me to share some cockles  
she had with her, that were stewing on  
the hearth, and whilst I was  
wanting them, she super-added a  
cup of such native kindness  
and good-will, as infinitely fur-  
some passed all the artifices of refine-  
ment.

From

From Harlech a fresh guide conducted me over the top of the mountain, and I found an entire good road on my return to Tan y Bwlch.

Leaving my little Inn there with regret, I passed a dreary cloud-capt country, till I came up to a road which, for near a mile, was cut through a barren rock, and finely preparative for the scene that was to open upon me. On a sudden I came upon a

little garden with a stone

Poough

uid Pont Aberglaelyn, the bridge that  
p o divides the counties of Merioneth  
d a and Carnarvon. It consists of  
etum only one wide stone arch, thrown  
over a considerable water-fall,  
ther from two perpendicular pre-  
reanipices ; beyond it is a semicircle  
can of rock, which forms a salmon-  
mi leap, above which, in spawn-  
rooing time, the fish frequently at-  
r the attempt to lodge themselves, at  
upon the amazing height of five or  
upon yards ; they are frequently  
Po caught here in the season with  
nets,

nets, and sometimes with spears  
that are barbed for the purpose  
but having passed the bridge  
how shall I express my feelings  
—the dark tremendous precipi-  
ties, the rapid river roarin-  
over disjointed rocks, black  
caverns, and issuing cataracts,  
all serve to make this the noble  
specimen of the Finely Horri-  
the eye can possibly behold,  
the Poet has not described, no  
the Painter pictured so gloomy  
a retreat,—'tis the last Approa-

to the mansion of Pluto through  
the regions of Despair.

Having staid too long in contemplating this amazing pass, posted as fast as possible over a rocky desert to gain some refreshment at Bethkelert ; the blacksmith's house appearing the neatest, I alighted, and was able to obtain two eggs, which might here be considered as a most luxurious repast. At Tan-y-Bwlch I had been informed, that I should really meet with very

very decent accommodations at Bettus, and might with comfort take up my abode there for an evening. As I travelled, I reflected on Burnet's Description of a part of Carnarvonshire, that it was "the fragment of a demolished world," and on making some slight observation to the Guide of the dreariness that surrounded me, "Aye, master, says he, this must have been an ancient country indeed, for you see it is worn out to the

very

at every stones," this remark however, is probably rather good than new;—but we were now arrived at Bettus, and the Guide pointed to the house, where I was to get lodging and entertainment;—the violent stench did not prevent my looking in,—the savages sat lapping their oatmeal and milk, and the swine were attendant at the table. In such a situation, only one question could properly be asked, which was, how many miles to Carnarvon?

narvon? Finding the distance  
only six miles, I determine  
to hazard being lost in the  
night, rather than to be suffo-  
cated in this nauseous dura-  
geon. I must own I did here  
expatriate a little on recommen-  
dations, and said it was impossi-  
ble that the Guide, as well as the  
mistress of the Inn at Tan  
Bwlch, could be so intolerably  
mistaken; the man apologized  
with great frankness, that he di-

not bridge

not think the house altogether bad, as my Honour would have been sure to have gotten some good ale ;"—however, amidst all my vexation, I could not help doubting, whether Man had sunk into a Savage at Bettus, or was polished into an Ape at Paris, was altogether the more respectable animal.

Within three miles of Carvon I was agreeably surprised with a very fine road, and a new bridge, which will open a free

communication with these unfrequented regions, and induce them to visit the Wonders of the British Alps, in preference to the Mountains of Switzerland, or the Glaciers of Savoy.—Mr. Barrington, who, to a consummate knowledge in the formation of Laws, adds Zeal and Propriety in the execution of them, has now indicted all the parishes between Carnarvon and Bethkelert; and indeed, unless men of great rank or the justices of each district

will take upon them this office,  
the Bill, which was in many  
parts so excellently framed by  
Gilbert about two years ago,  
must become totally void and in-  
fratricious ;—I know that it will  
immediately said, that any  
private gentleman has the same  
means within his own power ;  
what private gentleman, for  
sake of a road, will live in  
petual warfare with five or six  
fishes around him ?—Who, for  
convenience of rolling his

carriage a quarter of an hour sooner to some neighbouring market-town, will endanger his plantations being cut down, or cattle to be either maimed or destroyed?

I passed my evening at a very good inn at Carnarvon, and having procured an intelligent guide returned early next morning through Bettus to the foot of Snowdon.—Having left my horse at a small hut, and hired a mountainer to carry some cord

and provisions, with a spiked  
ax, but imprudently without  
nails in my shoes, about ten  
o'clock I began to ascend the  
mountain.—The two first miles,  
were rather boggy and disagree-  
able, but when the prospect open-  
, I soon forgot all difficulties ;  
in the course of the two last I  
passed by six precipices, which I  
believe were very formidable,  
but as I was near the brink, and  
the wind very high, I did not  
venture to examine too narrowly.

—On the summit, which is a plain about six yards in circumference, the air was perfectly mild and serene, and I could with pleasure contemplate the amazing magnitude that was unfolded to my view.

From hence may be distinctly seen, Wicklow Hills in Ireland, the Isle of Man, Cumberland, Lancashire, Cheshire, Shropshire, and part of Scotland ;—all the counties of North Wales, the Isle of Anglesea ;—rivers, plains, wood-rocks, and mountains, six and twenty

play twenty lakes, and two seas ;—it  
remains doubted whether there is an-  
other circular prospect so exten-  
sive in any part of the terraqueous  
globe.—Who could take such a  
Survey, without perceiving his  
spirits elevated in some propor-  
tion to the Height ?—Who could  
behold so bountiful a Display of  
Nature without Wonder and Ec-  
stasy ?—Who but must feel even  
the Degree of Pride from having  
gained an eminence, from which  
he could with ease overlook the

**Nest \* of the Eagle, and the Nest  
of the Hawk?**

But as the level walks of Life  
are best suited to the generality of  
Mankind, it became necessary to  
consider that this was no spot  
where I could properly make an  
lasting Abode, and that the Re-  
turn would be attended with at  
least as much difficulty as the  
Ascent.—Having descended

\* Moel Guidon, and Moel Happoch, two mountains near Snowdon, mentioned by Lord Lyttelton.

Vide Account of a Journey into Wales.

Ne mile or two, I did not think it  
amiss to enquire about an ex-  
hausted Mine that I saw at a dis-  
tance ; and I could make this en-  
quiry with the better grace, as the  
Guides had hitherto quite won-  
dered at my prowess ; — the  
Mine I was informed was only  
Copper ; and happy was it for  
the Welsh that their Mines did  
not consist of choicer Metals ; —  
had they been cursed with either  
Gold or Silver, Foreign Nations  
long since, in the name of the

God

God of Peace, and under pretence of teaching them an immaculate Religion \*, had laid waste their country, and murdered its inhabitants.

At the Foot of Snowdon I turned about half a mile out of the way to see a Water-fall;—the

\* The Spaniards made the Gospel an Excuse for all the barbarities they committed in the conquest of Peru, and when they plundered the rich mines of Potosi, they frequently (says Las Casas) erected gibbets all over the country, and hung twelve poor wretches at a time, in honour of the twelve Apostles.

Side-rock was exceedingly beautiful, but the Cataract itself was rather contemptible, after the noble ones I had seen in the neighbourhood of Dolgelly.—As the Guides seemed to think a floating island, about two miles distant, was a most wonderful phænomenon, and related many singular and surprising tales concerning it, I indulged their credulity so far as to go and inspect it ;—the Lake, as they called it, was somewhat bigger than a common duck-

duck-pond ; and the Island was a knotty piece of Bog, which, after very heavy rains, might very possibly float in it.

On my return to Carnarvon I examined the Town and Castle.—The town was built by the command of Edward the First, out of the ruins of the ancient city of Segontium, that stood a little below it ;—it is situated between two rivers, and has a beautiful prospect of the Isle of Anglesea ; —it was formerly of very great account

account when the Princes of Wales kept their Chancery and Exchequer Courts there.—On the west side of it stands the Castle, which was built to curb the Welsh mountaineers, and secure a passage to the opposite shore—In a part of it, called the Eagle Tower, you are shewn the remains of a chamber in which Edward the Second \* is

\* The Cradle of that weak, wicked, unfortunate prince is still preserved ; it is now in the possession of a clergyman in Gloucestershire, to whom it descended from one of his ancestors, who attended the Prince in his infancy.

said

said to have been born ; about ten years after his birth it was besieged by the Welsh, but was afterwards repaired ; and both the town and castle had divers Privileges confirmed to them by different Sovereigns, down to the reign of Elizabeth ; during the last civil war they were held for King Charles, but were afterwards surrendered on conditions to the Parliament. On viewing these spacious Ruins, I could only

only ruminate on the Changes  
they had undergone;—strange  
Reverse! — to think that those  
Walls, which heretofore resound-  
ed with Acclamations on the  
Birth of the first English Prince  
of Wales, should now afford  
Shelter only to a few miserable  
Cottages, from the tempestuous  
Blasts of the Bristol channel !

I made several Excursions into  
the Isle of Anglesea, the well-  
known Seat of the Druids;—  
this

this may now be considered as  
Classical Ground ; for though  
Mona is destroyed, and her Al-  
ters abolished, — though Fires  
have consumed her Groves, and  
her Priests have perished by the  
Sword, yet, like the Phœnix,  
she rises more glorious from  
Decay ; her Ashes have given  
Birth to the Caractacus of  
Mafon, and the Fate of her  
Bards to the Inspiration of  
Gray.

Nothing

Nothing could be more delightful than the Ride from Cardigan to Bangor ; to the right and were Snowdon Hills, and to the left the River Menai, or more properly speaking, the Strait between the Continent and the Island of Anglesea ; I had now got into Day-light and the polite World again ;—there had been a diversion the night before at Cardigan, and the road was covered over with Carriages.

F

Bangor

Bangor lies at the north end of the same Frith, or arm of the Irish Sea, which is the passage to Anglesea, where it has a Harbour for Boats. It was once so large as to be called Bangor the Great, and was defended with a powerful Castle, built by Hugh Earl of Chester, which has long since been demolished. The Town is now of very little Note, except for being the See of a Bishop; the Palace is neat, but deplorable.

erminated ;—this is doubly mortifying in a Country where every part of the neighbourhood is picturesque and pleasing ; his Lordship however has the happiness of being so much beloved in his Diocese, that it would have been almost Treason there to have finished him a Removal.

Between Bangor and Conway I passed over the famous Mountain called Penmaen Mawr—the road must formerly have been very difficult, but a Wall is now built

to the Sea side, to which it is said  
the City of Dublin very largely  
contributed ;—to form this road  
it has already cost upwards of  
two thousand pounds, and it can  
be kept open only at a continual  
expence, for vast Fragments of  
Rock are frequently falling fort  
fathom from above, which en  
tirely block it up, till they are  
forced through the Parapet into  
the Sea, which lies perpendicu  
larly full as deep below.

From

From hence the Country opens into a Plain, which extends as far as the River Conway, the eastern limit of the County of Carnarvon. It rises out of a Lake of the same name, and runs with a north-west Course, receiving in the short space of twelve miles more than as many Rivers, so that at Aberconway, where it discharges its waters into the Irish Sea, it is full a mile broad, and capable of bringing Ships of almost any Size up to the Town;

at present Conway bears only some melancholy Marks of what it once was, and to what a wretched State, by a total Decay of Trade, it is now reduced.

The Castle still remains one of the noblest Monuments of Antiquity; it is built in the same Style with that of Carnarvon, but is far more regular. The Outside is the same as in the time of Edward the First, except one Tower, and that was not demolished with either battering engines,

gines or cannons, but by the people of the place taking Stones from the foundation of it. Some Remains of the principal Rooms are still to be seen, the Dimensions of which have been accurately given by Lord Lyttelton, and an elegant View of them in Antiquities by Mr. Grose; but I had never seen the Outside of this most venerable Ruin to advantage had I not walked over some polished Ground about a quarter of a mile from it, which I be-

lieve belongs to a Gentleman of Conway;—there You see the Castle finely sheltered by an Oak Wood —on one side *the Chief of River* opening into the Irish Sea, and on the other the Mountains surrounding Penmaen, with a distant Country most beautifully diversified.—Art and Nature cannot combine to form a more various and more delicious Prospect.

I could not possibly leave this part of the Country without seeing the Vale of Llanryft, the

Bridge

Bridge built by Inigo Jones, and the Chapel supposed to have been planned by him, which contains the rich monuments of the Guedit Family.—The Vale upon the whole I thought inferior to that I had seen in Montgomeryshire, but the Bridge is certainly a very elegant Structure, and speaks itself to be the Work of a great Architect, most probably of Jones, for I incline to the opinion that Llanryst was the Place of his Nativity.

The

The Chapel which adjoins  
 the Parish Church, was erected  
 by Sir Richard Wynne,  
 one of the Grooms of the Bed-  
 chamber to Charles the First when  
 Prince of Wales, and was chiefly  
 made use of for the Alms-House  
 in the neighbourhood, which was  
 endowed by the Guedir Family.  
 I took the Pains of copying the  
 different Inscriptions in it, and  
 as they are not contained in the  
 History of that Family lately pub-  
 lished,

lished, they may not be unacceptable to the curious Antiquary.

“ This Cappel was erected Anno Domini 1633. By Sir Richard Wynne of Gwydir in the County of Carnavon Knight and Baronet, Treasurer to the High and Mighty Princess Henrietta Maria Queen of England, Daughter to King Henery the Fourth King of France, and Wife to our Soveraing King Charles. Where lieth Buried his Father S<sup>r</sup> John Wynne of Gwydir in the County of Caernarvon Knight and Baronet, Son and Heyre to Maurice Wynne, Son and Heyre to John Wynne, Son and Heyre to Meredith, Which Three lye Buried in the Church of Dolwyddelan with Tombes over them. This Meredith Son and Heyre to Evan, Son and Heyre to Robert, Son and Heyre to

to Meredith, Son and Heyre to Howel,  
 Son and Heyre to David, Son and Heyre  
 to Griffith, Son and Heyre to Carradock,  
 Son and Heyre to Thomas, Son and  
 Heyre to Roderick Lord of Anglesey, Son  
 to Owen Gwynedd Prince of Wales, and  
 younger to David Prince of Wales,  
 who married Eme Plantagenet Sister to  
 King Henery the Second. There suc-  
 ceeded this David Three Princes, His  
 Nephew Leolinus Magnus, who married  
 Jone Daughter to King John, David his  
 Son, Nephew to King Henery the Third,  
 and Leoline the Last Prince of Wales of  
 that House and Line who lived in King  
 Edward the First his time. S<sup>r</sup> John  
 Wynne married Sydney who lieth buried  
 here, the Daughter of S<sup>r</sup> William Gerrard  
 Knight, Lord Chancellour of Iteland, by  
 whom he had Issue S<sup>r</sup> John Wynne who  
 died att Lucca in Italy. S<sup>r</sup> Richard  
 Wynne

Wynne now living, Thomas Wynne who Lieth here, Roger Wynne who Lieth here, William Wynne now living, Maurice Wynne now living, Ellis Wynne who lieth Buried att Whitford in the County of Flint, Henery Wynne now liveing, Roger Wynne who lieth here, and Two Daughters, Mary now living married to S<sup>r</sup> Roger Mostyn in the County of Flint Knight. and Elizabeth now liveing married to S<sup>r</sup> John Bodvil in the County of Caernarvon Knight."

On the Floor are four Brafs Plates, with Drawings of Figures upon each of them in the Dresses of the Times, one of Maria Mostyn, Wife of Roger Mostyn, another

another of Sir Owen Wynne, another of Sir John Wynne, and a Fourth of Lady Sydney Wynne, Wife of Sir John Wynne. And in the Corner of the Chapel a Stone Coffin, which was removed from the Abbey of Conway, about two miles from hence, on which is the following Inscription :

“ This is the Coffin of Leolinus Magnus Prince of Wales who was buried in the Abbey of Conway, and upon the Dissolution, remov'd from thence.”

On

On each Side are six carved Re-  
cesses in the figure of Flower de  
Luces, which bear evident Marks  
of having contained Brass Plates,  
and two at the bottom of the  
Coffin.

There is now erected in the  
Church a Gallery of exquisite  
Workmanship, which was re-  
moved likewise from the Abbey;  
and I was at the trouble of hav-  
ing a large quantity of Rubbish  
taken away from under an old  
Staircase, that I might inspect a  
Stone

Stone Effigy, which is said to be  
of Hoel Coetmore, who sold the  
Guedir Estate to the Wynne Fa-  
mily; the Word Gweddir is sup-  
posed to signify Glafs, and that  
Family probably was the first  
who in these parts had a House  
with glazed Windows.

I ought to make some Apology  
for the foregoing heavy Articles  
but elaborate Inscriptions fre-  
quently illustrate History, and  
These will at least shew that Some

of the Welsh were not totally regardless of Pedigree.

I made diligent enquiry through all Carnarvonshire, and this part of Denbighshire, for the Glyder Mountain, which Gibson has particularly described, and which, from its singularity, (say the Authors of a Tour through Wales,) we more wished to have seen, than the Summits of either Plinlimmon or Snowdon.

“ On the utmost top of this Mountain, according to the Continuator of Camden, who saw it, is a prodigious pile of Stones, many of which are of the magnitude of those at Stonehenge. They lie in such an irregular manner, crossing and supporting each other, that some people have imagined them to be the remains of a vast building; but Gibson more naturally supposes them to be the skeleton or ruins

of

of the Mountain ; the weaker parts of which may have been worn away in a series of ages, by the rains and meltings of the Snow.

" On the west side of the same mountain, he speaks of a remarkable precipice, adorned with numerous equidistant columns, formed to that shape by the almost continual rains, which this high rock, being exposed to the westerly sea wind, is subject to.

" Notwithstanding the situation of this mountain seems to be pointed out by the last line and though its Phœnomena are so peculiar, yet We (add the Authors of the same Tour) were obliged to leave the Country without gaining the smallest knowledge of it."

I was equally unfortunate in not being able to see this Mountain, but in crossing the wide Ferry at Conway, I by accident

gained

gained such Information, that I am confident any future Traveller may very readily satisfy his Curiosity ; an old Boatman there informed me, that he had frequently seen it,—that in his younger days indeed it was sometimes termed the Glyder, but was now known only by the name of Wythwar,—that it was within a mile or two of a Village, called Clynnog, and upon the Shore almost opposite to Carnarvon.

On my way to St. Asaph, I passed over the top of Penmaen Rofs, a steep and formidable Mountain ; this is by far the worst part of the road between Holyhead and Chester ;—a nearer Path was some time since cut along the side of the sea cliff, but a Man and Horse had lately been killed, and by order of the Commissioners it is now entirely broken up.

The City of St. Asaph is called in British Llan Elwy, on account

of

of its situation at the Conflux of the River Elwy with the Clwyd; and St. Asaph by the English, from its Patron Asaph, who in the year 560 erected a Bishop's See there. The Bishop of this Diocese has no entire County under his Jurisdiction, but Parts only of the Counties of Flint, Denbigh, Montgomery, Merioneth, and Salop. The Cathedral is a mean Structure, and the Houses in general but ill built, St. Asaph however may boast that

it stands in the delightful Vale of Clwyd, though by no means in the finest part of it.

About five miles from thence, near the road to Holywell, You have the best View I think of that fertile and delicious Vale ;— it is of an oval shape, about 25 miles in length, and about eight miles wide in its broadest part ; it lies open only to the Ocean, and to the clearing North Wind, being elsewhere guarded with high mountains, which towards the

the East especially are like Battlements or Turrets, for by an admirable Contrivance of Nature, says Camden, the tops of these Mountains resemble the Turrets of Walls. Upon the whole however I think that there are other cultivated Scenes in North Wales equal, if not superior; in the Vale of Clwyd indeed You have the Lively and the Beautiful, but in Montgomeryshire the Awful and Sublime.

Holy-

Holywell, and the History of its Virgin Saint, would require at least a Folio. I shall only say that I was truly sorry to find that blasphemous Papers should still be suffered to be publicly sold at the Spring there, which compare the ludicrous Legend of Winefrid with the most sacred Truths of the Gospel.

It was my Intention to have seen Winstay, Erthig, and Chirk Castle\*,

\* Sir Watkin Wynne's, Mr. Yorke's, and Mr. Middleton's.

and

and afterwards to have traced  
the River Dee to Bala, but I was  
unexpectedly called off from my  
Tour ; I had the good fortune  
however to join Party with the  
Bishop of Kildare, whose easy  
Manners and refined Conversa-  
tion left me no room to regret a  
Disappointment.

To the foregoing Account,  
which was in part printed off for  
the Use and Amusement of some  
select Friends only, I shall now  
add a few general Remarks on  
- the

the History of the Country and  
the Manners of its Inhabitants.

The Origin of every Nation is necessarily obscure, and always lost in a pretended Antiquity. On the Authority of Bochart we may trace the Welsh from Japhet, the Son of Noah ; according to Others, from Trojans and Phœnicians, who were the Offspring of Gods ; and one Writer I think has asserted that a True Briton is a Compound of all Nations under Heaven. That Britain

how-

however was peopled from Gaul 1000 years before Christ, appears very probable,—the arguments in favour of this opinion are deduced from the State of Population on the Continent, and from the Progress of it in the Island itself. It has been well observed \* that Names descriptive of national Manners cannot be the original Appellations of any people, they result from the inter-

\* By Whitaker.

course and experience of the States around them, on whose territories they have dared to encroach ; the Appellation of Brigantes, according to Strabo, came to signify a turbulent and plundering race, and the Denominations of Celtæ and Gael came to import, even amongst themselves, the Ferocious and the Stranger.

The Name of Cymri appears to have been the great hereditary Distinction of the Gauls upon the Continent, and to have been carried

ried with them into all their Conquests; it was not retained in our Island merely by the Natives of Wales, but was equally the Appellation of a Nation in the South-West of Somersetshire and the North-East of Cornwall.

The first Denomination of our Island was certainly Albion, a name given before the Country was inhabited; it was the Celtic Term for Heights or Eminences; the Alps some ages before the Days of Strabo were called Albia,

bia, and in his time there remained two tribes on the Mountains that bore the Names of Albiœci, and Albienses.

The second Denomination was that of Britain, derived from a Celtic Word likewise signifying *Divided*, not *Painted*; this Etymology has lately been proved not to have been applied to the Region, but bestowed on the Inhabiters; not previously borne on the Continent by the original Settlers of the Country, but assumed or received

received at their first Removal  
into the Island.

The Title of Welsh seems to arise from the Word Wall or Gall, an appellation which the Britons frequently gave each other; nor will this Derivation appear forced if we add, that the Channel betwixt France and England was denominated Sinus Vallicus, or the Gallick Strait, so late as the eighth Century, and that the Dutch and Germans call the

H

French

French by the Name of Walls and  
Walloons to this very Day.

The general Denomination of Wales was not imposed on the Country by the Saxons, but was the acknowledged Appellation of the Region as early as the sixth Century, if we may believe a Quotation from Talieffin, as cited by Dr. Davies.

Nor were some plain and certain Derivations of Names till of late only unknown to us,—we

have

have not always had either just Ideas of British Manners or British Antiquities ; this ample Field of History has been greatly laid open by an Individual \*, and a rich Produce will continually arise from the judicious Publications of a most respectable Society †.

Our Knowledge of the Druids is still vague and unsatisfying, and must ever remain so, as they

\* Whitaker.

† Society of Antiquaries.

committed few things, if any, to Writing, though they were certainly not unacquainted with Letters; for among the Maxims collected by Gollet, there is one that forbids their Mysteries to be written, a Prohibition which could never have been given had Letters been entirely unknown; some curious Particulars however may at least be traced from Tradition and others from Specimens of their Poetry that have been recited by the Natives. As Guardian

of what They called True Religion, they of course possessed the greatest authority among the people; No Laws were instituted by the Princes without their Advice, no Plunder taken in War without their partaking of it. They held the Dissolution of the World by Fire and Water, they taught the Immortality, and some say the Transmigration of the Soul, a Doctrine borrowed from the Pythagoreans, though Clemens Alexandrinus expressly asserts that

the Pythagoreans borrowed that Doctrine from them ; in my own opinion they never believed the Transmigration of the Soul at all ; and I found this opinion on some late Accounts of Gaulish Funerals, which certainly corresponded with the British ones, the Customs and Ceremonials of which were absolutely incompatible with that Doctrine.

They sacrificed human Victims to propitiate the Gods ; and prophesied future Events from the

falling of the Body, and the Manner in which the Members were convulsed ;—they believed there was a divine Mystery in Misleto, but took their first Distinction from the Oak, to which the Jews paid the same regard during their Idolatry, according to a Passage in Ezekiel, “ under every thick *Oak* did they offer sweet Sacrifice to their Idols.” Once a year They, with their Chief, an Arch-Druid, assembled at a fixed time and place to hear Causes,

and determine all Disputes; where their decisive Court was held has never been determined, but most probably in Anglesea, as that Island was certainly their Metropolis. So great was the Power of the Druids, that not only the Property, but also the Lives of the People were entirely at their Disposal, and this Power continued absolute till the time of Tiberius;—it was afterwards suppressed by Claudius, under the fair Pretext of abolishing human sacrifices,

sacrifices, but the Priests themselves, their Gods and their Altars subsisted, though in obscurity, till the final Destruction of Paganism.

The Manners of the People were naturally tinged with the Discipline of their Teachers ; in proportion to their ignorance they were superstitious, and in proportion to their zeal they committed Cruelties and Fraud ; I shall not raise Disgust by a recital of Barbarities, but rather refer my

Readers

Readers to the Journals of modern Voyages, where they will find, that there is a Sameness in the primæval State of every savage Nation: a few other Particulars however may not be uninteresting. The Britons lived in Tribes or Clans, under the Aristocratical rule of their several Lords; their Villages were a confused Parcel of Huts placed at a small distance from each other, and, generally speaking, in the middle of a Wood, whereof the

Avenues

Aventures were defended with Trees, that were cut down to clear the ground.

Their Trade was very inconsiderable, notwithstanding the convenient situation of the Island for carrying on an extensive Commerce; Their vessels were very small, with their Keels and Ribs made of slight Timber, interwoven with Wicker, and covered with Hides, which shews that they never undertook long Voyages, most probably never ventured

ured to Sea beyond the Coasts of Gaul.

The Britons were not so totally destitute of Defence as has been imagined ; the Island is of itself a Shield, and they certainly made use of the Battle-axe, as well as Military Chariot ; these Chariots were drawn by Horses, and the Axle-trees were generally furnished with Scythes ; but the People were not united under a well regulated government, or they would always have continued

formi-

formidable to their Enemies ;—  
a number of petty Communities  
will never act in concert with  
each other ; tho' History informs  
us that upon great and extraordi-  
nary Dangers a Chief Commander  
was always chosen by common  
consent ; but what State or Co-  
lony will acquiesce even with the  
Leader themselves have chosen ?  
and in the end, if unsuccessful,  
he must always fall a Sacrifice to  
those Miseries their own Incon-  
sistencies alone have occasioned.

When

When that part of Britain which comprehends the present Kingdom of England and Principality of Wales, was divided into several petty Kingdoms, the Inhabitants were all distinguished by different names. The Principality of Wales, formerly comprehending the whole Country beyond the Severn, was in the Roman times occupied by the Silures, the Dimetæ, and Ordovices; to these belonged not only the twelve Counties of Wales,

but

but likewise the two others lying beyond the Severn, Herefordshire and Monmouthshire, which in the reign of Charles the Second were first reckoned amongst the English Counties.

The Country now known by the name of North Wales was inhabited by the Ordovices only, who held out first against the Romans, and afterwards against the English, after the other Britons were subdued ; for by the Romans they were not reduced

till the time of Domitian, nor by the English till the Reign of Henry the First.

About forty-five years before the Christian Era, Britain was first invaded by the Romans under Julius Cæsar,—afterwards by Cladius, and at length became a Province under the Roman empire; it was governed by Lieutenants, or Deputies, sent from Rome, as Ireland is now by Deputies from England; and continued thus under the Romans

for

for upwards of 400 years ; till that Empire being invaded by the Goths and Vandals, the Romans were forced not only to recall their own armies, but also to draw from hence the bravest of the Britons, for their assistance against those Barbarians.

The Country being left in a defenceless State, was invaded by the Scots, who were so rapacious, that the Britons sent over a miserable application for relief to Ætius, the Roman General, who

I                      by

by several famous Successes, for a time, had repelled the violence of the Gothick Arms, but receiving no hopes of any Succours from that General; the South Britons invited over the Saxons, who no sooner delivered them from their ancient Foes the Picts and Scots, than they strengthened their own Numbers, turned their Arms against the Natives, and conquer'd them, some few excepted, who secured themselves in the Mountains of Wales; whence their Descendants

scendantes have always been  
 distinguished by the title of  
 Ancient Britons. The Gothic Almanac  
 During the Saxon Heptarchy  
 lived the renowned Prince Arthur,  
 whose Valour would have re-  
 tired the miserable state of the  
 Britons had Valour only been  
 wanting; his History has been so  
 blended with Fable, that some  
 have doubted the real existence of  
 such a Person; but it seems ra-  
 ther hard because Stories have  
 been invented concerning the Ac-  
 tions

tions of his Life, that he should not be allowed to have lived at all ; it is true that the Saxon Annals make no mention of this King, but it was not probable that the Saxons would be fond of recording Exploits, which redounded only to their own discredit ; an ancient English Historian speaking of Cerdic, mentions his fighting several Battles with King Arthur ; and William of Malmesbury owns, that though the Britons had vented innumerable

merable Fables concerning this Prince, he certainly was a Hero worthy to be celebrated in True History. The Britons bewailed "their long lost Arthur" for several Ages after his Death ;—they believed he was still alive in Fairy Land, and that he would return once more to reign over them ; nor was this notion rooted out till the reign of Henry the Second, about six hundred years afterwards, when his Coffin was dug up at Glastenbury in Somerset-

shire, with the following Inscription, "Here lies buried the renowned King Arthur in the Island Avalonia." The Exploits of this Warrior have not only been sung by Talieffin and other British Bards, but have been celebrated by one of the greatest of our English Poets; it seems by some Hints given by Spenser, that he intended a Poem whose title was to be expressly, King Arthur;—Dryden tells us that he had some thoughts of making choice

choice for the subject of an Heroic Poem, King Arthur's Conquests over the Saxons ; Milton, in a Latin Address to Mansus, has likewise intimated the same Intention.

Wales was anciently bounded by the Irish Seas, and by the Rivers Severn and Dee, till the Saxons became Masters of all the level Countries over those Rivers; and till Offa, king of Mercia, made the celebrated Trench, which is still called by

his Name. This Trench, which extended from North to South,—from the mouth of the River Dee to that of the Wye, has been thought to have been an Imitation of the Ramparts, which were thrown up by Agricola, Adrian, and Severus, to guard the Romans against the Incursions of the Northern Barbarians; but from some Remains of it, as well as for several other Reasons, it seems more probable, that it was not intended by Offa as a Fortification,

but

but rather as a Boundary betwixt his Kingdom and the Cambrian Province.

When after many Events between the several Races of the Heptarchy, Ecbert became the sole King of England, as it was now distinguished from the Principality of Wales, he possesseded himself also of Mona, the Capital of the Cambrian Province ; but the Saxons some time afterwards being driven out of it, it was from them called Anglesea, English-

Englishman's Island, a name which it has retained ever since.

In the year eight hundred and forty-three all Wales was united under the Dominion of Roderic, surnamed the Great; who, by a testamentary Settlement, made a new Division between three Sons into three Districts, which were called Kingdoms, and distinguished by the Names of South Wales, Powis Land, and North Wales; this Partition gave rise to many Wars, which caused the Kingdom.

dom of Powis Land to be portioned among the Conquerors, and annexed partly to South Wales, and partly to North Wales, Divisions which subsist to this Day.

No sooner were the Saxons settled under one Monarch, than the Danes began to trouble them, as they (the Saxons) had before done the Britons, till, after many invasions, Edgar King of England set forth the first Navy, made Peace with the Danes, and allowed

ed them to live in his Dominions mixed with the English;—at this time we read of five Kings in Wales, who all did him Homage for their Country.

Notwithstanding many Attempts of the English, the Welsh enjoyed their own Laws, and lived under their own Princes, till in the year 1282 Llewelin lost both his Principality and Life; in the reign of Henry the Eighth Wales was incorporated and united with England; and

by

by a Statute of the 27th of that Reign, all Laws and Liberties of England were to take place there; from which time the Welsh have approved themselves truly worthy of their high Origin, loyal and dutiful to their King, and always zealous for the Welfare of the Community.

The Welsh Language is still the Gomerian or Old Celtic, the same that was once spoken throughout Europe, except that through length of time, and In-

ter-

termixture of the people with the Scythians and other nations, it has split into a variety of Dialects. No Tongue, either ancient or modern, I believe, bears greater Marks of antiquity; its strong resemblance to the Hebrew has been generally admitted, insomuch that one Author of great Learning has given a Specimen of a considerable number of Phrases out of the Old Testament, which are so alike in both, that they seem to have been originally the same. It is

no uncommon Error to give the Name of Mother Tongue to those Languages, from which some known Idioms only are derived ; the Hebrew has been considered as a Mother Tongue, but was evidently borrowed from the Phœnician ; the Latin is called the Mother tongue to the Italian, the Spanish, and the French, but the Latin itself was derived from the Tuscan, and the Tuscan from the Celtic and the Greek. It will reasonably be asked, how the Go-  
merians

merians have preserved their Lan-  
guage almost entire, whilst the  
Jews have suffered theirs to be  
corrupted, and blended with those  
of their Conquerors?—for this,  
many reasons may be assigned;  
the Former have not been so fre-  
quently subdued, and they have  
always preserved a considerable  
Regard for what They conceived  
to be a Mother tongue; a regard  
greatly kept up perhaps by the  
Custom which the Lowest of the  
People had, of reciting their Ge-  
nealogies.

nealogies. This ancient Language is spoken the nearest to its original purity in the uncultivated parts of North Wales, but the Welsh in general still retain so high a veneration for it, that I am confident they will never readily suffer the English to be entirely made use of in their Churches, or taught solely in their Schools.

Much has been said of those Druidical Remains, which by many Authors have been indif-

K crimi-

criminatingly called Carns, Carneddys, and Cromlechs; but of their original meaning, I shall venture the following Conjecture, —that by the word Carn, which signified a Rock, the Britons simply implied one large broad Stone, as a covering for a Grave\*;

\* The Word Carn was afterwards used in an ill sense, most probably when the Mode of Burial came to be changed on the Introduction of Christianity; then Malefactors being thrown into holes near the Highways, and great quantities of Stones heaped upon them, it was no uncommon thing for a man to say to his enemy; *May a Carn be your Monument.*

by

by a Carnedd, a heap of Stones thrown rudely together to commemorate an event ; and by a Cromlech, an huge, broad, flat Stone raised high on other Stones, where the ancient Britons, like the Hebrews, made Sacrifices or paid religious Adoration.

Those nice Distinctions that have been formed of the Druids, the Bards and the Vates, subsisted only, I think, in particular Societies ; the Druids in general

composed and recited Hymns, as worship to their Deities ; the Bards \* certainly composed

\* The Bards, who were inferior Druids, wore an ecclesiastical Ornament during the celebration of their Rites, called by the Latins Caputium, or Cucullus, which is still retained in our Universities ; the Gauls, who borrowed this custom from the British Druids, wore the Cucullus remarkably long, whence it obtained, on its being made use of at Rome, the name of Bardo-Cucullus, or Bard's Hood. It was in allusion to the Shape of this Hood, that Martial feared lest a Sheet of his Book should be rolled up to put Pepper or Frankincense in :

Ne Thuris Piperisve sit Cucullus.

Vid. NICHOLLS.

Hymns

Hymns likewise; but it was in the hour of Battle that their labours were chiefly celebrated, by singing the Exploits of deceased Heroes; while the Vates were principally engaged in the Rites of Sacrifice, or the Arts of Divination.

The Welsh have always laid claim to the Discovery of America, in preference to the Great Columbus, but this claim has hitherto been supported with little more than bare Conjecture; in the

twelfth Century, according to Powell, there was a War in Wales for the Succession, upon the Death of Owen Guinneth ; and a Bastard having carried it from the lawful Heirs, one of the latter, called Madoc, put to Sea, and sailing west from Spain, discovered a new world of wonderful Fertility ;—to prove that a country was thus discovered, the Welsh have recourse to the Authority of Meridith ap Rhees, who composed an Ode in honour  
of

Prince Madoc and his new-found Land ; and that this Country was America they have alledged on the credit of Peter Martyr, that the Natives of Virginia celebrated the memory of one Madoc, as a great and ancient Hero ; and always supposed their Ancestors to have come thither at first, from some very distant Countries on the other side the great Water, at the time that has been asserted, and from the same point of the Compafs. The af-

finity of Language has since been frequently urged by modern Travellers, and Bishop Nicholson in particular, speaks confidently that the British makes a considerable part of several of the American Tongues; in answer to these Assertions, the ingenious Dr. Robertson has just now declared, that he conceives the skill of the Welsh in the twelfth Century, not to have been equal to such a Voyage; and that the instances given of

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the affinity of Language are so obscure and fanciful, that no conclusion can be drawn from them ; to these remarks he adds, that if the Welsh towards the Close of the twelfth Century had settled in any part of America, some remains of the Christian doctrine must have been afterwards found among their Descendants, when they were discovered three hundred years after their migration ; — but here I must entirely disagree with the learned Author, — three hundred years

years cannot in this case be called a “ short period ;” — one Century would probably have been sufficient to have obliterated every mark of a Religion, that had to combat with the prejudices of an unlettered people ; that did not address itself immediately to their Interests, and through a Mode of Civilization, teach them at first only, as Warburton well expresses it, \* the emollient Arts of Life.

\* The Gospel, plain and simple as it is, and fitted in its nature for what it was ordained to effect, requires an intellect something

Christianity seems to have been introduced into Britain, as early as the first Century, but of this great Event our Accounts must necessarily be very imperfect, as the Saxons destroyed almost all the Writings in which it was recorded ; Mona, we read, had certainly a School of Chris-

something above that of a Savage to apprehend. Nor is it at all to the dishonour of our holy Faith, that such a one must be taught a previous lesson ; and first of all instructed in *the emollient Arts of Life.*

See the Bishop of Gloucester's Sermon  
on the Propagation of the Gospel.

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tian Learning many years before  
182, when there was an Arch-  
bishop of Caerleon, and Suffra-  
gans under him ; but the Clergy  
had no distinct Parishes either in  
Anglesea or any other part of  
the kingdom, till many years  
afterwards. About the year  
600, Pope Gregory sent Austin  
the Monk to preach the Gospel  
in England to the Heathen  
Saxons, who was received by  
Ethelbert ; and being admitted  
to explain the Doctrine and

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Mysteries of it, so well succeeded that he converted great numbers, and at length the King himself. Thus the Christian Religion came to be established in England under the Rites and Authority of the Romish Church, by which Austin was instituted Chief Bishop, and seated by the Saxon king at Canterbury ; but his Jurisdiction, though admitted in all the Saxon Territories, was not received by the British Priests or People in Wales.—In the reign

reign of Elizabeth the Bible and Common Prayer were first translated into the Welsh Tongue, and at that time the People are said to have adhered to the Rubrick and Constitution of the Church with a scrupulous exactness ; how far the Doctrines and Worship of Christianity may have deviated from their original purity, or how far the Welsh may have been affected by the refined Tenets of their English Neighbours, I shall not presume

to

to determine, at present I think there is every where much to be feared, from the Growth of Enthusiasm, the subtleties of Infidelity, and the Necessity, as well as Danger of Innovation.

Many Popish customs are still retained in Wales, particularly Offerings made to the Dead,— these Offerings must of course vary according to the Rank of the Persons deceased, as well as the Affection that is borne to their Memories; I was at a

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Pauper's Funeral where the Donations amounted to half a Crown, and I met with a Clergyman afterwards who had once received ninety Guineas.

Great complaints are made in many parts of this Country of the exorbitant Demands of Landlords, and that the Rent of Ground is now advanced much higher than it will bear;— such Complaints must of course be expected from the Sufferers, but I believe, they are here in some

some instances made with reason; the landlords on the contrary may urge perhaps, that they act with strict Justice, and that they have a Right at least to try the experiment; but it should be remembered that the Extreme of Right is Wrong, and there is a Tribute of Humanity due from the Superior, that He should be always on a Certainty that he does not exact too much.

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National Characters should always be read with Exceptions; but if I must give my opinion of the Inhabitants of North Wales, I shall say, that the common people in general are civil and grateful, the Farmers rather slow and suspicious, a Few of the inferior 'Squires retain somewhat of the fottish and the brutal, but among the higher Ranks, I have found, in the same proportion as in

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England, lettered Society, hospitable Reception, and refined Address.

F I N I S.

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London



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